

CLAIMS

1. A modular structure (10, 20) for containing articles, fluids or persons, said structure comprising a plurality of elements (1, 13, 15) of plastic or composite material, coupled together along their end edges (26), mechanical fixing means
5 (23) and fluid seal means (43) being provided along those edges (26), characterised in that the coupled elements (1, 13, 15) comprise at least one element (1) having a curved surface of single curvature, the fluid seal means (43) being positioned on the inside of the modular structure (10, 20) in receiving seats (40) provided within an inner wall of said structure.
- 10 2. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised by comprising a plurality of elements (1) having a curved surface of single curvature.
3. A structure as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that those elements (1) having a curved surface are coupled together in succession (Figure 9) in correspondence with their end free edges (26), said structure being open.
- 15 4. A structure as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that those elements (1) having a curved surface are coupled together in such a manner as to define a tubular structure (Figure 4).
5. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the elements to be coupled together comprise flat elements (13) and elements (15) comprising two
20 connected-together adjacent curved surfaces with different centres of curvature, said elements with two curved surfaces (13) defining corner elements of the modular structure.
6. A structure as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that at least one of the flat elements (13) presents an aperture able to be intercepted by a closure
25 element (65).
7. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that each coupled element (1, 13, 15) is covered by a panel (1A, 13A, 15A) positioned on the outside of the modular structure, said outer panel having a shape identical to that of the corresponding coupled element (1, 13, 15).
- 30 8. A structure as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that insulation elements (60) are present between the coupled elements (1, 13, 15) and the corresponding outer panels (1A, 13A, 15A).

9. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the coupled elements (1, 13, 15) comprise flanges (25) projecting from their end free edges (26), the flanges (25) of two of these adjacent elements being coupled to each other and being fixed together by the mechanical fixing means (23).
- 5 10. A structure as claimed in claim 9, characterised in that the flanges (25) are external to the interior compartment (28) of the modular structure.
11. A structure as claimed in claim 9, characterised in that each flange (25) comprises distributed recesses (55).
12. A structure as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the outer panels
10 (1A, 13A, 15A) comprise projecting end flanges (25A) shaped as those of the coupled elements (1, 13, 15).
13. A structure as claimed in claims 1 and 9, characterised in that the fixing means are U-pieces (24) positioned along the projecting flanges (25) of the coupled elements (1, 13, 15), said U-pieces being fixed by mechanical fixing
15 members (34) passing through holes (35) provided in said flanges (25) and said U-pieces (24).
14. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the fluid seal means (43) are deformable bodies positioned within the respective seats provided in the inner wall of the modular structure defining the interior
20 compartment (28) of this latter.
15. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the fluid seal means comprise a polyurethane adhesive.
16. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the receiving seats (40) for the fluid seal means (43) are defined in correspondence with the
25 fixing regions between the coupled elements (1, 13, 15).
17. A structure as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that the fluid seal means (43) positioned between two coupled elements (1, 13, 15) are associated with fixing means (46) positioned in the regions (51) in which several coupled elements converge.
- 30 18. A structure as claimed in claim 17, characterised in that the fixing means (46) are cross-shaped bodies with arms (47) at least partly hollow (at 48) to receive ends (45) of the fluid seal means.

19. A structure as claimed in claim 18, characterised in that said arms (47) have a flat side (50).

20. A structure as claimed in claim 18, characterised in that the hollow arms communicate with a hole (460) into which a sealing and securing element can be inserted and which by penetrating into the cavities (48) of said arms (47) secures the ends (45) of the seal means for the arms (47).

21. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the receiving seats (40) for the fluid seal means (43) are defined by end recesses (97) in the coupled elements (1, 13, 15).

22. A structure as claimed in claims 1 and 6, characterised in that the outer panel (13A) positioned in correspondence with that coupled element provided with the aperture comprises a movable door (65) defining the closure element for said aperture.

23. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised by being a tank for containing a liquid such as water or the like.

24. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised by being a bin for containing articles.

25. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised by being a dwelling unit.

26. A structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised by being a conduit for fluids, articles in movement or persons.